

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 25, 2024

SAU Office Board Room
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Dick Dunning, Alan Edelkind, William Kennedy, Bob Edwards, Mike Borden, George Williard, Jeff Allgood

1. Call to Order

William Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Congrats Kimberly!

William Kennedy congratulated Kimberly Saunders for being awarded the New Hampshire Superintendent of the Year, and also explained that she is now one of four finalists for the National Superintending of the Year.

3. Approval of December 14, 2023 minutes

William Kennedy motioned to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023. Bob Edwards seconded. Unanimous.

4. Status of reconfiguration/consolidation and warrant article

Alan Edelkind read a three-page summary (attached) he created reviewing the upcoming change to the Articles of Agreement and what that means should the vote pass or fail. Discussion ensued regarding what happens to the empty building at which time Alan explained that Charter Schools would have the first choice to purchase. The District can also sell to the towns. William Kennedy explained that a big question is what does it do to property values if there is no school in your town. People buy houses with the knowledge that there is a school in their town. Alan explained that it is not true, and that Prismatic has also said that there is no indicator that property values would not go down. Mike Borden stated that he did not believe that people move to a town due to having a school. When his parents moved to Frankestown, there was no local school. Frankestown went to Peterborough and felt this did not have an impact. Not everyone has the scenario of having a school in their town. Alan feels that a parent would prefer moving into a District that has good schools, not necessarily a school in their town. Jeff questioned bussing costs and how long they would be on a bus. Kimberly explained that they are looking at routes and school start times, and Dick Dunning stated that they would not have students ride more than 45 minutes. Costs would also depend on where kids want to go. There will be no cart blanch as to what school you want to go to. Dick explained his concern to continue to obtain what we have now takes away from offerings at middle and high school. Kimberly expressed its about what we're not offering now, such as foreign language at the middle school.

5. Budget highlights

Kimberly Saunders gave a presentation of the proposed budget going to the voters. Discussion regarding what are contractual budgeted items and items required by law including the cost of out of district placements and salary increases. Health insurance is also making a big impact on the budget this year. The rates of health insurance are based on usage which include towns as well as district. Blake --- asked if there was a stipend for staff if they do not take the District Health Insurance. Kimberly explained that there is a buyback program. Revenue has remained flat. These are drivers that we do not have any control. All supply lines have been cut by 10%. Blake --- also asked if there was a built-in salary increase for administrative positions that are not part of the Union. Kimberly explained that there in guaranteed rate. It is a merit-based increase for Administrators and support, it is not guaranteed. In addition, there was discussion regarding the response to the law suit. There is a movement to move the bill into interim study which is where bills go to die. It is important that it gets to the floor. William Kennedy asked to get a list of committee members to contact.

Jeff Allgood as how we are getting the information to the voters. It is important to get them to consider the facts before voting.

6. Other Business

The Committee will go back to meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month, the next meeting will February 22, 2024.

7. Adjourn

Jeff Allgood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mike Borden seconded. Unanimous.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Denise McLenon**